infrastructure of all mental health institutions in the Public Sector, has been submitted to the Planning Commission.

Confiscation of ultrasound machines in unlicensed clinics

353. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hon'ble Supreme Court has directed the State Governments to confiscate ultrasound machines being used to determine the sex of foetus in clinics run without licences; and

(b) if so, the number of such ultrasound machines seized and sealed in each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir. In its Order dated 29th January, 2002, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has directed the State Governments/UTs to seal and seize the ultrasound machines/scanners used by such organizations as have not got themselves registered under the Pre-natal Diagnotic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994.

(b) These order were passed a little over month ago. We continue to receive reports. As per the reports available, the number of ultrasound machines seized/sealed in States/UTs is:

(i) Haryana -1

(ii) Karnataka -5

(iii) Delhi -1

Kidney trade in Karnataka

354. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that kidney trade is still flourishing in Karnataka especially in Bangalore City, where a recipient has to pay between Rs. 90,000/ to 1 lakh for a kidney and the donor gets only Rs. 40,000/-and remaining amount is pocketed by the middlemen;

(b) if so, the number of such cases detected last year; and

(c) the action Government have taken to arrest the illegal trade of kidney in that State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Under Section 13(2) of the Transplanation of Human Organs Act, 1994, the State Govenrments are empowered to appoint by a notification one or more officers as Appropriate Authorities for the purposes of the Act. No such cases have been reported by Government of Karnataka to Government of India during last year.

Increase in patients due to costly treatment

†355. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nowadays due to not much difference in conditions of Government Hospitals and Private Hospitals, poor people are not able to get treatment as a result of which the number of patients is increasing constantly;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that concessions being given by his Ministry have been discontinued; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) In so far as three Central Government Hospitals in Delhi, namely, Dr. RML Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital and LHMC & Associated Hospitals are concerned, investigations and treatment for poor patients are provided free of cost within the available resources. Keeping in mind the increasing number of patients, special clinics are being run in the afternoon and number of registration counters has been increased in these hospitals.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.